

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN RE: AUTOMOTIVE PARTS
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

Case No. 12-md-02311

MDL NO. 2311

Hon. Marianne O. Battani

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

BEFORE SPECIAL MASTER GENE J. ESSHAKI
ABBOTT NICHOLSON, P.C.
300 River Place Drive, Suite 3000
Detroit, Michigan
Tuesday, May 26, 2015

APPEARANCES:

End Payor Plaintiffs:

STEVEN N. WILLIAMS
COTCHETT, PITRE & McCARTHY, L.L.P.
840 Malcolm Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
(650) 697-6000

Dealership Plaintiffs:

VICTORIA ROMANENKO
CUNEO, GILBERT & LaDUCa, L.L.P.
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Washington, D.C. 20002
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1 Detroit, Michigan

2 Tuesday, May 26, 2015

3 at about 1:59 p.m.

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— — —

5 MASTER ESSHAKI: Good afternoon. This is
6 Gene Esshaki. I don't need to take roll call. I am going to
7 ask who is going to be addressing the issues on behalf of the
8 defendants?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Special Master, Steve Williams.

10 I apologize, but there were some people ringing in
11 and we weren't able to hear the end of your sentence.

12 MASTER ESSHAKI: I'm sorry, Steve. I was simply
13 saying -- and this is going to continue. When I checked in
14 there were 19 people on the line so we're probably up to 30
15 right now but this will continue for a while.

16 What I'm saying is I'm not going to take a roll
17 call, there is no need to take a roll call, I would simply
18 like to know who is going to be speaking on behalf of the
19 defendants?

20 MS. SULLIVAN: Master Esshaki, Marguerite Sullivan
21 from Latham & Watkins.

22 I will be speaking on behalf of the wire harness
23 defendants and all defendants on some of the issues.

24 MASTER ESSHAKI: Okay. Ms. Sullivan, is there any
25 way you can raise the volume on your phone or speak louder?

1 MS. SULLIVAN: Sure. Is this better?

2 MASTER ESSHAKI: That is much better. Thank you.

3 Can you hear me clearly?

4 MS. SULLIVAN: Yes, I can.

5 MASTER ESSHAKI: All right. Now, you understand
6 that we have -- the court reporter is in my office taking
7 down this argument?

8 MS. SULLIVAN: Yes.

9 MASTER ESSHAKI: Okay. Now, who is going to be
10 speaking on behalf of the plaintiffs?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Special Master Esshaki, this is
12 Steve Williams, and I will be speaking for the end payors.

13 MS. ROMANENKO: And this is Victoria Romanenko, I'm
14 speaking for the dealership plaintiffs.

15 MR. McMILLAN: Hello. Ron McMillan speaking for
16 the Continental -- Continental America and Continental
17 Automotive.

18 MASTER ESSHAKI: Would you please give me your name
19 again, sir?

20 MR. McMILLAN: Absolutely. Ronald McMillan of
21 Calfee, Halter & Griswold.

22 MASTER ESSHAKI: Okay. Thank you, sir.

23 MR. McMILLIAN: With Continental Automotive Systems
24 and Continental Automotive Electronics.

25 MASTER ESSHAKI: Okay. Very good. Well, I'm

1 wondering if we should wait just a couple minutes so the
2 pinging stops so we can have our arguments without
3 interruption?

4 I have had an opportunity to review the position
5 statements that were filed with your e-mails to me as well as
6 the draft orders, and I have -- I have pinpointed, and there
7 may be more, but I have pinpointed three open issues. One is
8 with respect to the depositions of -- the 30(b)(6)
9 depositions, the defendants have suggested an eight-hour dep
10 with an hour for the plaintiffs to ask questions. The second
11 area of dispute as I pick up is that there's a difference of
12 opinion on whether there was to be a pre-submission to the
13 plaintiffs of an outline of the areas to be covered in the
14 depositions versus questions themselves with objections. And
15 then the third issue that I have picked up is the question of
16 is there going to be 1, 2 or 29 deposition protocols.

17 Now, Ms. Sullivan, are there any other issues that
18 you think are there that I did not pick up?

19 MS. SULLIVAN: There is one other issue, that is
20 whether the draft order should state that only one counsel
21 from the defense side shall be permitted to ask any questions
22 at these depositions of the end payors and the auto dealers.

23 MASTER ESSHAKI: Okay.

24 MS. SULLIVAN: That is the other issue.

25 MASTER ESSHAKI: You are correct, that was there,

1 I'm sorry I didn't mention it.

2 Ms. Romanenko -- or I guess Mr. Williams, we will
3 start with you. Any other issues that I have missed?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: No, Special Master Esshaki. The
5 issues you raised and Ms. Sullivan raised we believe are all
6 the issues.

7 MASTER ESSHAKI: All right. Ms. Romanenko, would
8 you agree?

9 MS. ROMANENKO: Your Honor, I agree.

10 MASTER ESSHAKI: All right. And then,
11 Mr. McMillan, would you agree?

12 MR. McMILLAN: Yes.

13 MASTER ESSHAKI: Okay. Ms. Sullivan, I'm going to
14 task you with drafting the final order and you don't have to
15 do it until you receive the transcript of this conference,
16 but I do not need oral argument on this. I recall quite
17 vividly the discussions or those items that were not
18 discussed and I am ready to make a ruling on them, so I don't
19 want to spend a whole lot of time with oral argument because
20 I don't believe it was necessary. I realize that there was
21 confusion caused in a great deal by myself because we were
22 sort of having a free-for-all discussion, and next time I
23 will make sure that I guard against that.

24 So starting from the top, we did not discuss at the
25 status conference the 30(b)(6) -- the length of the

1 deposition of the 30(b)(6) and I do think that under the
2 circumstances because this is going to be a relatively
3 limited area we do not need to put these people through a
4 ten-hour day, and I'm going to rule that on that 30(b)(6) for
5 those dealers you get seven hours for the defendants and one
6 hour for the plaintiffs.

7 All right. The other thing is with respect to who
8 can examine, I'm going to permit more than one attorney to
9 examine but no more than three for the defendants.

10 Now, with respect to the issue of the template, I
11 was attempting to follow Judge Battani's instructions at the
12 January conference where she indicated a template for a
13 deposition protocol should be prepared that can be utilized
14 in all cases because auto dealers and end payors are going to
15 be deposed only once. And so at the hearing instead of
16 saying that there is going to be one template I indicated
17 that there was going to be two, that because the wire harness
18 cases were so advanced I wanted to get that template done and
19 in place so the depositions could commence.

20 I did not mean to imply that there would be a new
21 template for every other part. There is going to be a second
22 template that will be utilized, and you can take additional
23 time to negotiate that, and I distinctly remember and it is
24 in the record, I said you can tweak this second template
25 using the first template to get a second template for the

1 other cases. There will not be 29 templates as plaintiffs
2 have suggested, there will be two, the wire harness template
3 and the template that applies to all other cases, and I am
4 assuming there will be minor differences between the two.

5 The next issue --

6 MS. SULLIVAN: Master Esshaki, can I ask for some
7 clarification on that?

8 MASTER ESSHAKI: Can you hold until I finish?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Perhaps we can hear all the rulings
10 and then we can respond?

11 MASTER ESSHAKI: My suggestion exactly.

12 With respect to the question of what information
13 the defendants must convey to the plaintiffs prior to a
14 30(b) (6) deposition, it was an outline of areas to be
15 examined -- for the witness to be examined at the deposition.
16 It was not to be specific questions to be asked but just a
17 list of general areas that would be subject to examination so
18 that the plaintiff dealer could pick the person most suitable
19 to be the 30(b) (6) witness. There was to be -- never
20 anticipated any objections -- any specific questions nor any
21 objections would be filed. It was a notice of areas to be
22 covered so that the plaintiffs could pick the person most
23 suitable to give the 30(b) (6) dep. I think I have covered
24 all the issues we have raised.

25 And simply to keep this in order, Ms. Sullivan, do

1 you have any issues or clarifications that you need to be
2 made?

3 MS. SULLIVAN: Actually, Mr. Williams' suggestion
4 was a good one because you answered the question that I was
5 going to ask.

6 I do have one additional question though. With
7 respect to the information that defendants must provide to
8 plaintiffs prior to 30(b)(6) depositions, just to confirm,
9 that is limited to 30(b)(6) depositions and not 30(b)(1)
10 depositions, correct?

11 MASTER ESSHAKI: That's -- well, the purpose of the
12 deposition is to put the plaintiffs on notice of the areas to
13 be covered so that they can select the best person to answer
14 the questions. Now, I think the Judge's original ruling in
15 the status conference in January as I remember it was that
16 the defendants should plan on advising the plaintiffs of
17 areas of examinations for all the parties, so I'm going to
18 have to say it's all 30(b)6) and fact witnesses, just areas
19 that you intend to examine on.

20 MS. SULLIVAN: Master Esshaki, are you envisioning
21 then that the defendants will provide their list of topics to
22 the auto dealer plaintiffs and the auto dealer plaintiffs
23 will select the individual witnesses for Rule 30(b)(1)
24 depositions?

25 MASTER ESSHAKI: No, no.

1 MS. SULLIVAN: I'm not talking about --

2 MASTER ESSHAKI: No, I'm not and -- I'm not at all.

3 I'm saying as to 30(b) (6) you provide the areas you are going
4 to examine on and that's the way the rule works, the
5 plaintiffs will then select the person that is most capable
6 of responding to the 30(b) (6) areas of examination. As to
7 the areas, the Judge was suggesting give the plaintiffs some
8 advance notice of the areas in which you are going to examine
9 the witness on but the plaintiffs do not get to designate
10 that witness, it is just a pre-deposition notification of
11 likely areas to be covered in the dep, no selection.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Master Esshaki, this is

13 Steve Williams. If I may ask to clarify?

14 As to the latter point that you just mentioned
15 about 30(b) (1) depositions, do I understand correctly that
16 that ruling is as to both auto dealer plaintiffs and end
17 payor plaintiffs?

18 MASTER ESSHAKI: Yes.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

20 MS. SULLIVAN: Master Esshaki, this is
21 Maggie Sullivan.

22 May I address that ruling?

23 MASTER ESSHAKI: Yes.

24 MS. SULLIVAN: I understand that you recall that
25 Judge Battani conveyed her views that one way that the

1 defendants could prepare together collectively for these
2 plaintiff depositions would be to provide questions in
3 advance, but if you look at the January --

4 MASTER ESSHAKI: No, no, no, Ms. Sullivan, I
5 disagree, I disagree. I don't think at any time she said
6 provide questions in advance. I think she said provide areas
7 that would be subject to examination, an outline, not
8 questions, we are going to examine the witness in this area
9 and in this area and in this area but not specific questions.

10 MS. SULLIVAN: Well, there was a point during the
11 transcript -- or during the hearing where she was giving some
12 suggestions, and the quote from pages 25 and 26 she gave a
13 few suggestions, and one was to submit questions that you
14 would ask of a plaintiff, be it an auto dealer or an end
15 payor. She said I don't think the OEMs are a big deal but in
16 terms of those two groups you could also submit questions and
17 then either the master or myself could call those questions
18 so that you would literally have your questions asked, so
19 when a person comes in he's going to be asked the question,
20 or she, only one time, and you could decide for yourself a
21 group of you that will be taking these depositions using this
22 script.

23 And then she followed that to say or another way of
24 doing it is a group of you could get together and come up
25 with one set of questions so you are not all doing this.

1 Either way I don't care.

2 And then on page 36 of the transcript,
3 Master Esshaki, and this is the most important point that I
4 wanted to make, I would draw your attention to that page of
5 the transcript, it is page 36, I asked for clarification. I
6 said, Your Honor, may I just ask a point of clarification?
7 Are you requesting that we submit a template to
8 Master Esshaki or to other parties or just among the
9 defendants in the various cases?

10 And she responded, you can do whatever you want.
11 Hopefully you come to terms amongst yourself and you don't
12 have to bother Master Esshaki. And then she goes on to say
13 if the defendants could not reach an agreement among themselves
14 then we could submit conflicting questions to you,
15 Master Esshaki, to help us resolve our disputes.

16 But my point is that she confirmed at the end of
17 the discussion that she was not instructing or even
18 suggesting that the defendants provide anything to the
19 plaintiffs in advance of Rule 30(b)(1) depositions.

20 MASTER ESSHAKI: I think --

21 MS. SULLIVAN: And we really --

22 MS. ROMANENKO: Your Honor, may I --

23 MASTER ESSHAKI: Ms. Sullivan, I understand what
24 you're saying, and as I read -- as you read to me what she
25 says there really is no real clarification to it, but it was

1 my subsequent discussions in our May status conference where
2 I indicated that you must provide -- in the 30(b)(6) you must
3 provide an outline of areas to be examined, and I believe
4 that based upon what Judge Battani was saying that that
5 should go as to the 30(b)(1) but I don't think -- I don't
6 think it is necessary to provide specific questions because I
7 think what will happen is in every deposition because you've
8 got a different witness there's going to be different
9 objections to different questions, and literally you could be
10 talking about thousands of objections to thousands of
11 questions, and I don't think that is workable. I do --

12 MS. SULLIVAN: Yes, Master Esshaki, I agree with
13 you about not being required to provide questions in advance,
14 and I also agree that your ruling was very clear that
15 defendants need to provide a list of topics for Rule 30(b)(6)
16 depositions so that the auto dealer plaintiffs could identify
17 the appropriate corporate representatives to testify.

18 What I'm struggling with a little bit and trying to
19 persuade you against here is this ruling that defendants need
20 to provide a list of topics in advance of individual witness
21 depositions under 30(b)(1), there is just no support for that
22 in the Federal rules, and I don't see any support for that in
23 either of the transcripts of the two status conferences, so
24 that's what I'm trying to persuade you about.

25 MASTER ESSHAKI: I understand what you are trying

1 to do, and I think what the Judge was trying to do is
2 streamline the process so that there will be some advance
3 notice to the witness especially, for example, the end payor
4 plaintiffs, we are going to ask did you buy this car, when
5 did you buy the car, where did you buy the car from, how much
6 did you pay for the car, to your knowledge did the car have a
7 wire harness in it? I don't think that's objectionable to
8 say these are the areas we are going to examine this witness
9 on because it will help to streamline the witnesses'
10 examinations.

11 So I have a feeling, Ms. Sullivan, that in every
12 end payor plaintiff case the areas of examination will be
13 identical and I dare say the questions will be identical even
14 though you are not giving questions.

15 Now, you will recall that in what I will call the
16 second template there's got to be room for other defendants
17 to add areas of questions that they want examined in their
18 case.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Master Esshaki, Steve Williams.

20 May I ask for clarification on the last point that
21 you just made about this second template? Are you referring
22 to a template governing depositions of plaintiffs or of
23 defendants, OEMs and third parties?

24 MASTER ESSHAKI: What I'm referring to is the
25 plaintiffs have raised the potential -- the specter of there

1 being 29 templates. That was never intended, a template per
2 part, that was never intended. What was intended was a
3 master template that would cover all cases, and in our status
4 conference in May because the wire harness cases are so far
5 in advance I felt it was better to get that template done and
6 then have the other parts subject to a second template that
7 will follow the wire harness cases with simply some tweaks.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Master Esshaki. It's
9 Steve Williams again.

10 We had not created or intended to create 29
11 separate. Our view, we intend to take you up on the -- at
12 the May hearing you had said you would entertain a motion to
13 have a protocol across all the cases, and we do intend to
14 file that motion with you, and I am hoping that your ruling
15 on this point does not preclude us from --

16 MASTER ESSHAKI: Mr. Williams, Mr. Williams, I
17 would -- Mr. Williams, I would invite you to do that.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: We will do that.

19 MASTER ESSHAKI: Because I'm sitting here right now
20 myself envisioning conflicts between the two templates and
21 what happens, how do we reconcile the two templates with the
22 Judge's instructions that the auto dealer witnesses shall
23 only be deposed once and that the end payor plaintiffs shall
24 only be deposed once if there are two templates? So I guess
25 I'm rethinking that, and I would invite that motion, sir.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

2 MS. SULLIVAN: Master Esshaki, this is
3 Maggie Sullivan.

4 May I address that point?

5 MASTER ESSHAKI: Yes, please do.

6 MS. SULLIVAN: I think we are mixing some different
7 concepts here, and I just want to make sure it is very clear
8 what we are talking about. There is no potential conflict
9 with respect to the auto dealer plaintiffs and the end payor
10 plaintiff depositions. We have all agreed -- all parties
11 have agreed that those are all subject to a single protocol
12 that will apply to all auto parts cases. We have prepared
13 that protocol, we have reflected the key terms that you
14 addressed during May 6th in this order on the May 6th ruling
15 or hearing, but that protocol is in place -- it hasn't been
16 filed yet, but it is drafted and prepared and it is -- there
17 is no risk of conflicts between the cases with respect to the
18 plaintiffs.

19 MASTER ESSHAKI: Okay.

20 MS. SULLIVAN: There is a separate protocol that is
21 for other parties, and that is the wire harness protocol.
22 And on May 6th you ordered that we should enter the wire
23 harness protocol, and the order that the parties submitted
24 for you to consider actually is consistent on that point, we
25 were not disputing -- the plaintiffs and the defendants were

1 not disputing that point, we were prepared to file the wire
2 harness deposition protocol. There was a dispute about
3 protocols for other cases, and I will let other defendants
4 speak to that issue because it really is not a wire harness
5 defendant issue. And the other thing is I think the issues
6 that the plaintiffs -- you had ruled that there should be
7 protocols entered in those other cases that were consistent
8 with the wire harness protocol but with tweaks, and
9 plaintiffs took that out of their draft order because they
10 planned to file a motion to you to address that issue. The
11 proper way to address it would be to put it in the order
12 since it was, in fact, your ruling and then object to it to
13 Judge Battani, that would be the proper way under the order
14 appointing the special master but, again, I will let other
15 defendants address that particular issue.

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, Master Esshaki, this is
17 Steve Williams.

18 Can I just respond on the point that Ms. Sullivan
19 made because I don't think it fairly represents what the
20 ruling was, nor do I think it reflects what the ruling was
21 that was just made today? If you recall during the hearing
22 we did have a free-flowing discussion and specifically said
23 in the portion that quoted that you would entertain the
24 motion for a protocol for all cases, that's the motion that
25 we just discussed that we plan to file. If that is so, at

1 the very, very end of the May 6th hearing Ms. Sullivan did
2 then bring the subject up again and that's what she was just
3 referring to, but it seems to be much more orderly to permit
4 us to make this motion that we are talking about and have it
5 resolved in that manner than to put in language about
6 separately negotiating 29 protocols and 29 cases and then
7 take that up to Judge Battani, that seems completely
8 inconsistent with the January hearing, the May hearing and
9 what you have just said here ten minutes ago.

10 MASTER ESSHAKI: Under no circumstances did I ever
11 indicate there would be 29 protocols ever. I indicated I
12 would prefer one but because the wire harness cases were
13 advanced perhaps we needed to have two with the second
14 protocol being almost identical to the wire harness cases
15 with some tweaks.

16 Now, Mr. Williams, if you believe that it is
17 possible to negotiate a single protocol across all case lines
18 I think that's what Judge Battani was indicating.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: I believe that and I think this is
20 what you are suggesting, that we will have the auto dealer
21 and end payor protocols entered upon your rulings and those
22 will apply to all cases, we will have the wire harness
23 protocol entered separately as to every other party in that
24 case, and then we will file, the plaintiffs, our motion for
25 one single protocol that will govern all depositions in all

1 other cases and any objections to that motion can be brought
2 to you, Special Master, for resolutions.

3 MASTER ESSHAKI: Ms. Sullivan, your thoughts about
4 that? Mr. Williams has suggested that there will be a single
5 protocol on auto dealers and end payor plaintiffs, there will
6 be a wire harness protocol, then there will be a protocol on
7 all other defendants -- I mean in all other parties and all
8 other cases.

9 MS. SULLIVAN: Master Esshaki, that is fine with
10 the wire harness defendants but I suspect there are other
11 defendants that may have something to say about the motion.

12 MR. HEMLOCK: Yes, Your Honor. This is
13 Adam Hemlock on behalf of the Bridgestone defendants, and we
14 are defendants in the anti-vibration parts case.

15 If I may just make a point about the single
16 protocol that we are discussing that would relate to the
17 non-wire harness action, and I think there is now a little
18 bit of confusion regarding this point in part because I
19 think, Your Honor, when the term template was used at the
20 hearing the understanding that I and I believe others had was
21 that template meant kind of a base document that would be the
22 basis for the tweaks that you had mentioned at the hearing
23 but that invariably each case was going to have some unique
24 issues.

25 You know, I will cite, for example, the number of

1 depositions of the defendants may be different in different
2 cases. Each case has a different number of defendants, a
3 different number of entities in each defendant group, some
4 cases there are many conspirators or alleged co-conspirators,
5 and in some there are few, and there are other distinctions,
6 Your Honor, not just between the wire harness cases and every
7 other case but between each case, and I think what the
8 understanding had been was that perhaps the wire harness
9 protocol would be a template, meaning kind of a foundation
10 document upon which other -- the other orders might be
11 negotiated, but frankly for the same reason, Your Honor, that
12 you may see distinctions or necessary tweaks between the wire
13 harness order and others, I think those distinctions will
14 exist in all of the other ones.

15 For example, in the wire harness order, Your Honor,
16 there are unique provisions dealing with Leoni. Now, being
17 in the wire harness case and it is completely different
18 parties and it is a completely different case so I don't know
19 the origin, but clearly there was some reason why there was a
20 specific provision put in place for Leoni and I think we can
21 reasonably anticipate, Your Honor, that there would be
22 similar unique circumstances in the others and I for one and
23 other members of the defense group understood those were the
24 kinds of tweaks you were talking about.

25 Now, forgive me if I may, we recognize plaintiffs

1 I don't want to negotiate all 29, while I understand, but on
2 the other hand each case is a separate case and I think when
3 you had talked about using wire harness as a template I think
4 part of the understanding I had, Your Honor, and I'm just
5 speaking for myself, was that you certainly were not going to
6 view positively any effort by the defendants to completely
7 reopen every point in each -- in that order for every case
8 that came afterwards, and to some extent by styling it as a
9 template I think we had interpreted that as kind of an effort
10 to discipline to some extent any effort subsequently to
11 reopen every part of it, but as I noted, there are certain
12 things, such as the number of depositions, the locations and
13 other unique issues that will necessarily have to be tweaked
14 for each case, and I think that's what we understood. Let me
15 stop there for a moment and --

16 MASTER ESSHAKI: Yes, and, Mr. Hemlock, let me just
17 say you've given a great argument against a motion that has
18 not yet been filed.

19 MR. HEMLOCK: Well, thank you, Your Honor, that's
20 better than nothing.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Master Esshaki, it's Steve Williams.

22 Could I respond and perhaps finish that thought?

23 MASTER ESSHAKI: Mr. Williams, Mr. Williams, I know
24 a very famous judge who says sometimes when you're winning
25 you just have to sit down.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: I will submit.

MASTER ESSHAKI: Mr. Williams, I think your suggestion makes sense, and I do agree there is a great deal of confusion here but as I understand it there is going to be a single protocol across all lines of parts that are going to be applied to the auto dealer plaintiffs and the end payor plaintiffs. Additionally, there is going to be a protocol that is going to be involving the wire harness cases, and as I understand your suggestion, Mr. Williams, there should be a single protocol that goes across all other cases and I am more than willing to entertain that motion as I'm willing to entertain Mr. Hemlock or any other defendant's opposition to it, but the fact of the matter is the underlying principle that Judge Battani made in January and December -- I mean, and in May was we need -- we need some forms to help get us through what's going to be a significant number of depositions and to ease what could be thousands of objections, and if we can agree upon a template and, for example, in the anti-vibration case if there has to be an additional -- some additional questions that have to be asked or additional areas that must be explored then they can raise that issue and that was what I had suggested, the tweaks, they can raise that issue and ask that it be added to the template, and if I deem it reasonable and appropriate we will add that to the template. If they want to have certain

1 questions asked we can make sure that that gets added to the
2 template assuming that they are good-faith questions and, you
3 know, will lead to some valuable information, but when we are
4 talking about tweaks under no circumstances did I ever intend
5 nor do I think that the Judge ever intended 29 templates.

6 So where does that leave us, Ms. Sullivan? I
7 believe --

8 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Steve Williams.

9 I don't know -- I apologize, Special Master, if you
10 are still entertaining argument on that point I had one other
11 issue that I wanted to speak to?

12 MASTER ESSHAKI: Okay. Please do, sir.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: On the issue of how many defense
14 counsel will be allowed to examine an auto dealer or end
15 payors, you have ruled that three will get to do so. On the
16 plaintiffs' side, meaning when plaintiffs take depositions,
17 in this case under the protocols we have an obligation to
18 coordinate with each other and to not duplicate questions of
19 witnesses, and we would ask that the same obligation and
20 limitation apply to the defense counsel examining the
21 plaintiffs --

22 MASTER ESSHAKI: Mr. Williams, Mr. Williams --

23 MR. WILLIAMS: -- in advance of the depositions and
24 they will not repeat the examination done by other examining
25 counsel.

1 MASTER ESSHAKI: Mr. Williams, absolutely.

2 Ms. Sullivan, would you please make sure that when
3 we allow up to three attorneys to examine an auto dealer or
4 an end payor plaintiff that they cannot replew the same
5 ground?

6 MS. SULLIVAN: Yes.

7 MASTER ESSHAKI: All right. Ms. Sullivan, are you
8 clear on the rulings I have made today?

9 MS. SULLIVAN: I believe so, Master Esshaki.

10 MASTER ESSHAKI: Such that you can redraft an order
11 to show to Ms. Romanenko and Mr. Williams for their approval?

12 MS. SULLIVAN: I believe so, yes.

13 There was one final issue that I think probably
14 does not require your involvement, we can agree on this
15 although it is your ruling so I should raise it with you, but
16 it is the deadlines for the parties to submit the EPP and ADP
17 deposition protocol order and the wire harness deposition
18 protocol order that are covered by this order that we will be
19 drafting. Defendants have proposed three days, plaintiffs
20 have proposed five days from entry of the order. Do you have
21 a preference?

22 MASTER ESSHAKI: I would give the plaintiff the
23 five days; two extra days is not going to stop the Earth from
24 spinning. Who is next?

25 MS. ROMANENKO: This is Victoria Romanenko for

1 dealership plaintiffs.

2 I just wanted to make certain that we clearly
3 understood the ruling on 30(b)(1) and 30(b)(6) dealership
4 depositions. There's going to be one 30(b)(1) notice to each
5 dealership plaintiff from the defendants and one outline of
6 30(b)(6) areas, the 30(b)(1) areas of questions.

7 MASTER ESSHAKI: No, I don't know that you do
8 understand it correctly. In the 30(b)(6) deposition there is
9 going to be an outline of areas to be covered in that
10 deposition so that the auto dealer plaintiff can select the
11 person within their organization that is best able to respond
12 to the questions. In the 30(b)(1) depositions there will
13 also be an area -- there will be also areas to be examined in
14 that person's deposition but there will be no selecting of
15 the person, the defendants will select who they want to
16 examine, the only thing they do is they will be notifying the
17 plaintiffs in advance these are the areas we intend to cover.

18 MS. ROMANENKO: Understood.

19 MASTER ESSHAKI: Okay. Ms. Romanenko, do you have
20 anything else?

21 MS. ROMANENKO: I do not.

22 MASTER ESSHAKI: Mr. Williams, anything else?

23 MR. WILLIAMS: The last thing -- I apologize to
24 prolong this, Special Master, would be would you like to set
25 a date after receipt of the transcript by Ms. Sullivan for

1 the draft to be circulated and then for us to get this order
2 to you?

3 MASTER ESSHAKI: I would like Ms. Sullivan to tell
4 me what she thinks she can do?

5 MS. SULLIVAN: Seven days, please, Master Esshaki.

6 MASTER ESSHAKI: I do not believe that's
7 unreasonable.

8 MS. SULLIVAN: Too long or too short?

9 MASTER ESSHAKI: I said it is not unreasonable.

10 MS. SULLIVAN: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you said
11 it is unreasonable.

12 MASTER ESSHAKI: No, ma'am, not unreasonable, it is
13 fine. And then if you don't have this worked out within five
14 days, come back to me, let me know what the points are after
15 that. Okay. So you have -- the order will be drafted and
16 submitted to counsel for the plaintiffs seven days after the
17 transcript is received. If you do not agree on the terms to
18 present me with an order to sign, come back to me with your
19 objections and we'll have at it again.

20 Ms. Sullivan, any further questions?

21 MS. SULLIVAN: No, Master Esshaki.

22 MASTER ESSHAKI: Mr. McMillan, I have not ignored
23 you but do you have any further questions?

24 MR. McMILLAN: No, thank you, Master Esshaki.

25 MASTER ESSHAKI: I believe we are all set then.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

2 MASTER ESSHAKI: Thank you all for participating
3 today, and we will see you at the next status conference.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.

5 MASTER ESSHAKI: Good day.

6 (Proceedings concluded at 2:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

3 I, Robert L. Smith, Official Court Reporter of
4 the United States District Court, Eastern District of
5 Michigan, appointed pursuant to the provisions of Title 28,
6 United States Code, Section 753, do hereby certify that the
7 foregoing pages comprise a full, true and correct transcript
8 taken in the matter of IN RE: AUTOMOTIVE PARTS ANTITRUST
9 LITIGATION, Case No. 12-md-02311, on Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

s/Robert L. Smith
Robert L. Smith, RPR, CSR 5098
Federal Official Court Reporter
United States District Court
Eastern District of Michigan

Date: 05/28/2015

Detroit, Michigan